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Preface

Algebraic and topological graph theory (Bled'07)

In June 2007, the traditional 6th Slovenian International Conference in Graph Theory took place at Lake Bled, Slovenia. This was by far the largest gathering of mathematicians from a specific research field in Slovenia. The conference had 15 invited speakers, 14 minisymposia, a general session, and a poster session. Minisymposia, which were introduced for the first time, allowed concentrations of researchers with similar interests. Topics from discrete geometry were much more visible than ever before. This was the first conference in the series in which geometric methods are present in the same proportion as algebraic and topological ones. Applications that are the subject of research of many Slovenian mathematicians have now been recognized as a legitimate branch of discrete mathematics.

Two satellite conferences made the event even more accessible to the interested participants. “The First Korea-Slovenia International Conference on Combinatorial and Computational Mathematics” that took place at the University of Primorska in Koper from 21 to 23 June 2007, opened a new bridge for fruitful collaboration between Central Europe and Asia. On the other hand, the “Pascal Workshop on Graph Theory and Machine Learning” (28 and 29 June 2007) represented one of the memorable events in the conclusion of a very successful Network of Excellence program under the European Sixth Framework that has a follow-up in the Seventh Framework.

Every conference in the quadrennial series of Slovenian International Conferences in Graph Theory leads to a special issue of Discrete Mathematics. This time there was a twist to the established tradition. A new journal “Ars Mathematica Contemporanea” was announced and launched in 2008. The journal publishes articles in contemporary mathematics that arise from the discrete and concrete mathematics paradigm, especially themes that combine at least two different fields of mathematics.

Each participant had a choice of whether to submit his or her paper to a special issue of Discrete Mathematics or to a special issue of Ars Mathematica Contemporanea. The present special issue brings together 23 papers selected from the 187 talks at the conference. As the title suggests, the emphasis of the special issue is on algebraic and topological graph theory, although other topics of discrete mathematics are also present. Another important novelty is an introduction of geometry, in particular abstract polytopes. We believe that the special issue brings together many high quality papers that will have a lasting impact.

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